Montana Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent
opi.mt.gov

JUMP Newsletter

Welcome to *JUMP,* the OPI online assessment newsletter. *JUMP* is published several times during the year to announce important assessment and data events. It provides up-to-date information necessary for the administration of statewide assessments and the accompanying data collections.

In this issue:

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MontCAS Special Smarter Update
Montana Comprehensive Assessment System

Montana Smarter Vendor Information

On October 1, 2014, the Office of Public Instruction and Measured Progress signed a contract for the administration of Smarter Balanced Assessment System.

Why does Montana have a new vendor?

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium was funded by a Race to the Top grant which ended September 30, 2014. Smarter's work will continue through UCLA/CRESST, and Measured Progress will work with UCLA/CRESST to provide the Smarter System to Montana.

Components of the Montana Smarter Assessment System

The components of the Smarter System are the Formative Digital Library, the Interim assessments and the Summative assessment. Under the contract with Measured Progress, all three components will be provided to all Montana accredited schools. The Formative Digital Library and Interim Assessment will be available for grades K-12. The Summative includes students in grades 3-8 and 11.

Accessing the Montana Smarter Components

A single sign on system (SSO), similar to MARS, will be used for all the Smarter Components. Each System Administrator and System Test Coordinator will assign roles for their educators. Webinar training for password assignment and roles is planned to begin in November.

Digital Library

The Digital Library is an online collection of instructional and professional learning resources to help educators use formative assessment practices to implement the intent of the Common Core State Standards. The resources were contributed and vetted against a set of quality criteria by educators throughout the Smarter Balanced Consortium, including Montana's own State Network of Educators.

Montana educators who participated in the State Network of Educators or had an account on the TIDE data system for the Field Test currently have access to the Digital Library.

Interim Assessment

Beginning in January 2015, the Interim Assessment will be available in phases to accredited Montana school systems. When it is fully phased in, the Interim Assessment will be available for use at any time during the school year.

♦ The items are not secure and can be used for professional development

♦ The non-performance task items will be electronically scored.

♦ Rubrics will be provided for the performance task items which will be scored at the local level.

Summative Assessment

The summative assessment is required for grades 3-8 and 11 in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Both subjects will include non-performance task items and performance task items accompanied by a classroom activity. The summative assessment test window is March 18-May 27, 2015.

Smarter Accommodations

Paula Schultz is the newest member of the MontCAS Team! If you have questions about Smarter Accommodations, please email Paula at pschultz2@mt.gov.

A memo regarding accommodations and IEPS is attached to this Jump Smarter Bulletin.

Getting Ready

Practice Tests

Feedback from the 2014 Field Test indicated that students who used the practice and training tests before the Field Test were more familiar and comfortable with the online assessment format and tools. The ELA and Math practice tests for grades 3-8 and 11 have been updated and are now available at the following link:http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test.

♦ **Logging In**: After following the link, click the Student Interface Practice and Training Tests button.

◊ Click the Sign In button on the next page (the fields will be pre-filled for Guest).

◊ Select the grade level and click Yes on the confirmation page

◊ Select the test on the Your Tests page.

♦ **Scoring**: Answer keys are available at: http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/resources/#scoring

♦ **Browsers**: The practice test can be used on any of the following browsers

◊ Mozilla Firefox

◊ Google Chrome

◊ Microsoft Internet Explorer 10

◊ Apple Safari

Sample Items

Sample items for ELA and Math are available at the following links:

♦ ELA: http://sampleitems.smarterbalanced.org/itempreview/sbac/ELA.htm

♦ Math: http://sampleitems.smarterbalanced.org/itempreview/sbac/index.htm

Technology & Data

OPI and Measured Progress anticipate technology requirements and data procedures for the 2015 summative assessment to be similar to those of the 2014 Field Test. More information will be available soon.

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Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

TO: Special Education Directors, Coops, and Teachers
                  System Test Coordinators
                  School Principals

FROM: Frank Podobnik, OPI Special Education Director
                  Susan Bailey-Anderson, Unit Manager for Professional Development, OPI Special
                  Education Division
                  Judy Snow, OPI State Assessment Director
                  Paula Schultz, OPI Assessment Lead for Smarter Accommodations

RE: IEPs and Accommodations for the Spring 2015 Smarter Assessment

DATE: October 10, 2014

In the spring of 2014, Montana students in grades 3-8 and 11 participated in a field test of the Smarter Balanced Online Summative Assessment. Because it was a field test, it was an opportunity for Montana students and educators to become familiar with the system, including the accommodations. The Smarter system had, and will continue to have, a practice test that offers the full functionality of the universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations.

In annual reviews of IEPs, schools should plan for the spring 2015 administration of Smarter and include appropriate Smarter accommodations in the IEPS. As the year progresses, those accommodations should be practiced and evaluated using the Smarter Practice Test.   Teachers may also wish to use the administration of other similar tests to evaluate the effectiveness of particular accommodations or to note the areas in which a student might need an accommodation.

Many tools are available to assist schools. They are

Practice Test
 http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/
- The Smarter Balanced Practice Tests are available to schools and districts for practice and training purposes. Updated classroom activities and scoring guides for the Smarter Balanced Practice Test are also available.

Draft Crosswalk
http://opi.mt.gov/pdf/Assessment/SMART/DraftCrosswalkCRTSmarterAccommodations.pdf
- Provides a chart that illustrates the alignment between the testing accommodations used for the CRT and the accommodations available for the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

The Montana Office of Public Instruction provides vision, advocacy, support, and leadership for schools and communities to ensure that all students meet today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.

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Resources and Practices Comparison Crosswalk
http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/Assessment/SMART/Smarter-Balanced-Resources-and-Practices-Comparison-Crosswalk.pdf

- To help schools identify similarities between the assessment resources and classroom practices, Smarter Balanced has developed a crosswalk that lists the resources that are currently included in the *Guidelines* document and assists educators and decision-makers by providing a description of both the resource and its classroom equivalent.

ISAAP Tool (Individual Student Assessment Accessibility Profile)
http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/support-for-under-represented-students/
Scroll down the page for two links: ISAAP Tool Instructions and ISAAP

- The ISAAP tool is designed to facilitate selection of the accessibility resources that match student access needs for the Smarter Balanced assessments. The ISAAP process represents a thoughtful and systematic approach to addressing student access needs for the Smarter Balanced assessments. The ISAAP process includes preparatory steps, a step for creating the ISAAP itself, and steps that allow educators to check that Designated Supports and Accommodations are entered correctly into the test engine. Optimally, the ISAAP process is a team approach. The overall goal of using the ISAAP process and ISAAP Tool is to provide students with a comfortable testing experience that allows them to demonstrate what they know and can do.

ISAAP Webinar
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6sihyIyYV9DemgtVUMxTkNvdXc/edit?

- Smarter Balance has recorded a webinar that provides information and guidelines for the use of the Individualized Student Accessibility and Accommodations Profile (ISAAP) tool.

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